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July 31, 2012

WASHINGTON – Congressman Charles F. Bass (NH-02) today welcomed the support of the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) for his Smart Energy Act, legislation that will help get the federal government and many businesses on a path to greater energy efficiency and cost savings.

In a [letter to Bass and his lead Democratic cosponsor](#), Rep. Jim Matheson (UT-02), the BPC Energy Board, chaired by former Senator Trent Lott, former National Security Advisor and Marine Corps General Jim Jones, and former EPA Administrator Bill Reilly, stated that "[t]he Smart Energy Act, which contains a number of initiatives with substantial benefits for our nation's economy and environment, demonstrates that bipartisan collaboration remains alive and well in the development of energy policy."

Bass said:

"Developing a strategic national energy policy will require solutions from both Republicans and Democrats, and that's why I partnered with several of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to craft legislation that addresses the demand side of the energy debate. There is real consensus that improving our nation's energy efficiency is a clean, cheap, and easy way to reduce overall energy costs and ultimately help create jobs. I am encouraged that the Bipartisan Policy Center supports my efforts in the House and Senator Jeanne Shaheen's efforts in the Senate to move forward on energy efficiency legislation once and for all."

Bass' legislation has also received broad support among trade associations and businesses, including the Alliance to Save Energy, the American Chemistry Council, Dow Chemical, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Electric Contractors Association, Pew Charitable Trusts, Schneider Electric, and United Technologies, among others.

Founded in 2007 by former Republican Senators Howard Baker and Bob Dole and Democratic Senators Tom Daschle and George Mitchell, the Bipartisan Policy Center is a think tank that "combines politically-balanced policymaking with strong, proactive advocacy and outreach." It actively promotes bipartisanship by forming policy solutions and convening regular events to foster ongoing conversations about how to make the government work better.

A copy of the [BPC's letter in support of the Smart Energy Act](#) is below:

The Honorable Charles Bass
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Jim Matheson
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Congressman Bass and Congressman Matheson,

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) strongly supports your efforts to advance important energy efficiency measures in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Smart Energy Act, which contains a number of initiatives with substantial benefits for our nation's economy and environment, demonstrates that bipartisan collaboration remains alive and well in the development of energy policy.

The BPC commends you for identifying obstacles to the deployment of energy efficiency measures and for developing a number of practical solutions to these obstacles. We continue to believe that a balanced and bipartisan package of measures that increases U.S. energy supplies and ensures the efficient use of these valuable resources is the key to a more secure and prosperous future. The BPC applauds your efforts to increase energy efficiency in the United States, and looks forward to continue to work with you to make energy efficiency a reality.

Very Truly Yours,

Senator Trent Lott
BPC Energy Project Co-Chair

Gen. Jim Jones
BPC Energy Project Co-Chair

Administrator William K Reilly
BPC Energy Project Co-Chair

-- 30 --